

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00894 020441Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9068
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0894

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP KN JA UR
SUBJ: PROPAGANDA THEME: WASHINGTON-TOKYO-SEOUL MILITARY
ALLIANCE

1. THE PROPAGANDA THEME OF A (NONEXISTENT) WASHINGTON-SEOUL-
TOKYO MILITARY AXIS, COMPLETE WITH TREATIES, JOINT MANEUVERS,
ETC., ORIGINALLY A NORTH KOREAN LINE, HAS RECENTLY BEGUN
APPEARING IN THE SOVIET MEDIA.

2. THE NORTH KOREAN MEDIA HAVE LONG TAKEN A BITTER, BAITING
APPROACH TO THE JAPANESE. THE SAME MEDIA CHRONICALLY OVERREACT
TO MILITARY EXERCISES, ESPECIALLY ROK-U.S. JOINT EXERCISES,
HELD IN THE ROK. BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF 1977, HOWEVER, TWO
ELEMENTS WERE ADDED. INSTEAD OF MERELY EXAGGERATING THE SCOPE
OF ACTUAL EXERCISES, THE DPRK'S MEDIA FABRICATED SEVERAL
NONEXISTENT ONES, INCLUDING MAJOR NAVAL MANEUVERS IN THE SEA
OF JAPAN; AND THEY REPORTED, REPEATEDLY AND FALSELY, JAPANESE
PARTICIPATION IN JOINT EXERCISES WITH ROK AND U.S. FORCES.

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3. ON DECEMBER 16, MOSCOW RADIO, BROADCASTING IN KOREAN,
REFERRED TO LAST SUMMER'S "DOUBLE DRAGON" EXERCISE AS
"THE LARGEST JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA MILITARY EXERCISE SINCE
THE END OF WORLD WAR II ITS OBJECTIVE, AS INDICATED BY
PRESS REPORTS, WAS TO FACILITATE JOINT OPERATIONS BETWEEN THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE EVENT OF AN
EMERGENCY". THE EXERCISE WAS "ANOTHER STEP TAKEN BY

THE U.S., JAPAN, AND SOUTH KOREA TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THEIR MILITARY COOPERATION IN THE REGION. A CONCRETE PROGRAM DEALING WITH SUCH COOPERATION WAS WORKED OUT WHEN U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN VISITED SEOUL AND TOKYO IN JULY".

4. ON JANUARY 6, TASS STATED IN AN ENGLISH BROADCAST THAT "THE USA IS NOW TRYING TO SET UP A POWERFUL WASHINGTON-TOKYO-SEOUL MILITARY AXIS TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF" BASES IN S.E. ASIA. TAKEN IN CONTEXT, THE STATEMENT IS CONSIDERABLY LESS EMPHATIC AND DETAILED THAN THAT BY RADIO MOSCOW. ON JANUARY 28, HOWEVER, TASS IN ENGLISH QUOTES AN ARTICLE IN THE USUALLY BELLICOSE PAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA WHICH ACCUSES THE U.S. AND JAPAN OF USING THE RECENT ANNUAL SECURITY-TREATY TALKS TO DISCUSS "STRENGTHENING THE MILITARY TRIANGLE OF WASHINGTON-TOKYO-SEOUL", AND ADDING THAT "A VAST PROGRAM OF AID TO SEOUL WAS ANNOUNCED IN TOKYO IN ANSWER TO U.S. DEMANDS".

5. A FICTIONAL TRIPARTITE MILITARY PACT HAS BEEN MENTIONED BEFORE IN NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA. IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE MOSCOW PICKING UP THE THEME NOW, HOWEVER, ESPECIALLY WHEN PYONGYANG HAS NOT BEEN USING IT RECENTLY. VARIOUS PURPOSES FOR THIS EFFORT COME TO MIND. THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT KUNAYEV VISIT TO PYONGYANG MAKE IT DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIETS MEAN TO PORTRAY ANY INCREASED

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SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH KOREANS. THEY MIGHT HOWEVER BE HOPING TO AROUSE CONCERN IN JAPAN TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOJ, OR OTHERWISE EXPRESSING THEIR IRRITATION WITH RECENT DIRECTIONS OF JAPANESE POLICY. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS.

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